

a plurality of user stations at dispersed customer locations for receiving the transmitted music selections, each user station including means for a customer to select and record desired ones of the received music selections;

a central controller system;

a communications link between each of the customer locations and the central controller system to verify to the controller system when the selected music selections have been recorded;

a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the customer locations for music selections that are recorded; and

anti-piracy means to identify the customer locations at which the recordings are made.

4. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the anti-piracy means includes means for weaving an identification tag into the recorded music.

5. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the music selections are transmitted in an encoded format.

6. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the music selections are encoded using an interlaced coding technique.

7. A system according to Claim 6, wherein the music selections are encoded using an interlaced coding technique in combination with a unique header that identifies each title.

8. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the transmitting step includes the step of transmitting a unique header code with each music selection.

9. a system according to Claim 8, wherein each header code identifies the time of transmission of the music selection transmitted with the header code.

10. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the data transmission system blanket transmits the music selections.

11. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the customer locations are customer households.

12. A system according to Claim 3, wherein some of the customer locations are in geographically remote and/or in sparsely populated areas.

13. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the data transmission system also transmits digital program and pricing information.

14. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the billing system includes means to update music pricing at any time.

15. A music distribution method, comprising:

transmitting a plurality of music selections;

a plurality of customers, using a plurality of user stations at dispersed customer locations,
receiving and recording the transmitted music selections;

using a communications link between each of the customer locations and a central controller
system to verify to the controller system when the selected music selections have been
recorded;

using the central controller system to bill the customer locations for music selections that are
recorded; and

providing the transmitted music selections with an anti-piracy feature to identify the customer
locations at which the recordings are made.

16. A method according to Claim 15, wherein the anti-piracy feature includes an identification
tag woven into the recorded music.

17. A method according to Claim 15, wherein the music selections are transmitted in an
encoded format.

18. A method according to Claim 15, wherein the music selections are encoded using an interlaced coding technique in combination with a unique header that identifies each title.

19. A method according to Claim 15, wherein the transmitting step includes the step of transmitting a unique header code with each music selection.

20. A method according to Claim 19, wherein each header code identifies the time of transmission of the music selection transmitted with the header code.

21. A method according to Claim 15, wherein the customer locations are customer households.

22. A method according to Claim 15, wherein some of the customer locations are in geographically remote and/or in sparsely populated areas.

23. A method according to Claim 15, wherein the step of using the central controller to bill the customer locations includes the step of updating music pricing at any time.

24. A system for recording music, comprising:

a plurality of user stations at dispersed customer locations for receiving transmitted music selections, each user station including means for a customer to select and record desired ones of the received music selections;

a central controller system; and

a communications link between each of the customer locations and the central controller system to verify to the controller system when the selected music selections have been recorded;

wherein the central controller system includes a billing system to bill the customer locations for music selections that are recorded, and anti-piracy means to identify the customer locations at which the recordings are made.

25. A system according to Claim 24, wherein the anti-piracy means includes means for weaving an identification tag into the recorded music.

26. A system according to Claim 24, wherein the music selections are transmitted in an encoded format.

27. A system according to Claim 24, wherein the music selections are encoded using an interlaced coding technique.

28. A system according to Claim 27, wherein the music selections are encoded using an interlaced coding technique in combination with a unique header that identifies each title.